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DE LA CRUZ

SAN DIEGO CITY OF

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3:97-CV-00111

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FILED PILLSBURY MADISON & SUTRO LLP DAVID E. KLEINFELD #110734 BARRY J. TUCKER #164163 101 West Broadway, Suite 1800 FFR - 4 1998 San Diego, CA 92101 Telephone: (619) 234-5000 4 CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT Attorneys for Plaintiffs ESTEBAN AREVALO DE LA CRUZ, SILVIA, LOR LA LA CRUZ DE LEON, KARLA FABTOLA AREVALO DE LA CRUZ DE LA 5 DE LEON, KARLA FABIOLA AREVALO DE LEON, 6 HEYDI VERONICA AREVALO DE LEON, JOSSELINE LORENA AREVALO DE LEON, BYRON AREVALO, 7 PROSPERO GUILLERMO DUBON AREVALO, AND JUAN FRANCISCO GOMEZ VELASQUEZ 8 9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 10 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 11 12 ESTEBAN AREVALO DE LA CRUZ; SILVIA) No. 97-0111J (POR) LORENA DE LEON; KARLA FABIOLA AREVALO DE LEON, a minor, by JOINT STATEMENT OF ESTEBAN AREVALO DE LA CRUZ and DISPUTED DISCOVERY ISSUES 14 SILVIA LORENA DE LEON, her guardians; HEYDI VERONICA AREVALO Honorable Louisa S. Porter DE LEON, a minor, by ESTEBAN Courtroom H AREVALO DE LA CRUZ and SILVIA 16 LORENA DE LEON, her guardians; JOSSELINE LORENA AREVALO DE LEON, 17 a minor, by ESTEBAN AREVALO DE LA CRUZ and SILVIA LORENA 1.8 DE LEON, her guardians; BYRON AREVALO; PROSPERO GUILLERMO DUBON 19 AREVALO; and JUAN FRANCISCO GOMEZ VELASOUEZ; 20 Plaintiffs, 21 vs. 22 CITY OF SAN DIEGO; ROBERT FINCH; ROBERT NICKLO; SHELLEY ZIMMERMAN; ELIJAH ZUNIGA; MICHAEL BROGDON; 24 and DOES 1-20, INCLUSIVE; 25 Defendants. 26 27 28

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1 I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

- Pursuant to Plaintiffs' request for a discovery
- 3 conference, the parties hereby submit the following
- 4 statement detailing the specific discovery issues which
- 5 could not be resolved after the parties met and conferred.
- 6 The foregoing Joint Statement of Disputed Discovery
- 7 issues sets forth the following:
- 8 1. The nature of the discovery request or dispute;
- 9 2. Plaintiffs' factual and legal basis for the
- 10 discovery request;
- 11 3. Defendants' statement in response; and
- 12 4. A meet and confer statement as to the disputed
- issues.
- 14 II. <u>DISCOVERY DISPUTE NO.</u> 1:
- 15 Plaintiffs request the internal affairs investigation
- 16 documents and reports (including the tape recorded
- 17 interviews of the Defendants) and the personnel files of the
- 18 following Defendant officers: Michael Brogdon; Robert Finch;
- 19 Robert Nicklo; Shelly Zimmerman; and Elijah Zuniga.
- 20 Specifically, in addition to the internal affairs materials
- 21 related to the incident, Plaintiffs are seeking the
- 22 following personnel documents: internal affairs incident
- 23 reports; performance reviews; employee performance reports;
- 24 employee evaluations; personnel history statements; and
- 25 notice of reprimands on the above named Defendant officers.
- 26 See Plaintiffs' letter and Addendum, dated November 12,
- 27 1997, requesting production of specific personnel records of
- 28 Defendant Police Officers, attached hereto as Exhibit 1;

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- 1 Plaintiffs' August 25, 1997 letter detailing the scope of
- 2 the requested information, attached hereto as Exhibit 2.
- 3 Plaintiffs are not seeking every piece of paper which
- 4 chronicles the careers of the above mentioned officers. The
- 5 important documents are those which relate to the officers'
- 6 job performance in this and other incidents, the City's
- 7 discipline procedures and prior claims of misconduct.
- 8 III. PLAINTIFFS' FACTUAL AND LEGAL BASIS FOR DISCOVERY
- 9 REQUEST:
- 10 This is an illegal search, excessive force and unlawful
- 11 detainment case brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 1983
- 12 and California law against the San Diego Police Department
- 13 and five of its officers. Plaintiffs also allege negligent
- 14 hiring, training, retention, supervision, and unlawful
- 15 policy, custom or practice against the City of San Diego
- 16 ("City") pursuant to Monell v. New York City Dept. of Social
- 17 <u>Services</u>, 436 U.S. 658 (1978).
- 18 Plaintiffs have requested that the City produce the
- 19 above requested documents listed in Exhibit 1 and 2. The
- 20 City contends that it is prohibited from voluntarily
- 21 providing copies of the requested documents. <u>See</u> letter
- 22 from Francis M. Devaney to Barry J. Tucker, dated November
- 23 21, 1997 (denying Plaintiffs' request for subject police
- 24 files), attached hereto as Exhibit 3. Thus, Plaintiffs
- 25 timely submit a Joint Statement of Disputed Discovery Issues
- 26 ("Joint Statement") to resolve this discovery dispute.
- 27 Plaintiffs rely on Hampton v. City of San Diego, 147
- 28 F.R.D. 227, 231 (S.D. Cal. 1993), as the correct procedure

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- 1 for preparing the Joint Statement. In Hampton, this Court
- 2 articulated the following specific requirements of a Joint
- 3 Statement: (1) describe the relevance of the information
- 4 sought; (2) identify the interests of the plaintiffs which
- 5 would be harmed if the material were not disclosed; (3)
- 6 specify how that harm would occur and how extensive it would
- 7 be; and (4) explain why it would be impossible or
- 8 impracticable to acquire the information through alternative
- 9 means. Id. at 231. Plaintiffs address each element in
- 10 turn.
- 11 1. Relevance.
- 12 Plaintiffs' discovery request for the performance
- 13 reviews, records and internal investigation reports set
- 14 forth in Exhibit 1 and 2 is relevant because it has a
- 15 "tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of
- 16 consequence to the determination of the action more or less
- 17 probable than it would be without the evidence." Fed. R.
- 18 Evid. Rule 401. See also Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 26(b)(1)
- 19 (parties may obtain discovery regarding any matter, not
- 20 privileged, which is relevant to the subject matter of the
- 21 pending litigation).
- 22 Here, Plaintiffs assert that Defendants used excessive
- 23 and unnecessary force to accomplish an unjustified and
- 24 illegal search of Plaintiffs' home. Thus, evidence of
- 25 Defendant officers' performance reviews, employee reports
- 26 and the current and previous internal affairs investigations
- 27 may establish a pattern of illegal searches, unlawful
- 28 detainments, excessive violence, behavior problems or

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- 1 training deficiencies which would be admissible at trial.
- 2 See Fed R. Evid. 404(b)(2)(evidence of other wrongs or acts
- 3 may be admissible to show motive, opportunity, intent,
- 4 preparation, plan, knowledge or absence of mistake). See
- 5 also Soto v. City of Concord, 162 F.R.D. 603, 610-11 (N.D.
- 6 Cal. 1995) (the question of relevancy should be construed
- 7 liberally and with common sense). Thus, the requested
- 8 records and previous complaint reports are relevant to the
- 9 present litigation and are reasonably calculated to lead to
- 10 the discovery of admissible evidence.
- 2. Plaintiffs' interests in the subject material.
- 12 Plaintiffs have a strong and legitimate interest in
- 13 vindicating their rights and seeking justice for the
- 14 unwarranted pain and suffering inflicted upon them by
- 15 Defendants. Plaintiffs discovery requests are narrowly
- 16 tailored to obtain discoverable information which may help
- 17 establish Plaintiffs' civil rights claims. Plaintiffs are
- 18 not simply looking for "dirt" on the Defendant officers or
- 19 conducting an unwarranted "fishing expedition." Rather,
- 20 Plaintiffs have a legitimate interest in obtaining discovery
- 21 of the requested information listed in Exhibit 1 and 2 in
- 22 order to effectively prepare their case against the City.
- 3. The extent of harm to Plaintiffs if the documents
- 24 <u>were not disclosed</u>.
- 25 Plaintiffs are seeking to establish that Defendants
- 26 acted maliciously and/or negligently in conducting their
- 27 investigation and subsequently obtaining and executing a
- 28 search warrant upon Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs would be

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- 1 prejudiced severely if denied the opportunity to discover
- 2 the documents at issue. The documents may be the only
- 3 source to show the negligent hiring and/or training of
- 4 Defendants. Further, the documents may help establish that
- 5 the City knew or should have known of past misconduct of
- 6 certain individual officers and failed to take adequate
- 7 remedial measures which could have prevented the harm
- 8 suffered by Plaintiffs in this incident. Finally, the
- 9 requested documents may establish that the individual
- 10 officers displayed a pattern or history of violent or
- 11 otherwise improper behavior in similar arrest situations.
- 4. Plaintiffs' inability to acquire the information
- 13 <u>through alternative means</u>.
- 14 Plaintiffs are seeking police reports, personnel files
- 15 and internal affairs records of the Defendant officers which
- 16 are exclusively within the City's possession. Plaintiffs
- 17 simply have no other means of discovering the requested
- 18 documents other than directly from the Defendants.
- 19 IV. <u>DEFENDANTS' RESPONSE TO DISCOVERY DISPUTE NO. 1:</u>
- 20 Defendants oppose Plaintiffs' request for the Internal
- 21 Affairs Division investigation into this incident and for
- 22 the personnel files of the individually-named Defendant
- 23 police officers on the following grounds:
- 1. <u>Internal Affairs Division investigation into this</u>
- 25 <u>incident (IA No. 96-329C)</u>.
- 26 The Internal Affairs Division investigation into a
- 27 plaintiff's complaint is ordinarily discoverable and
- 28 frequently provided to plaintiff's counsel by the Office of

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- 1 the City Attorney without a court order. However, the
- 2 Internal Affairs investigation in this case should not be
- 3 treated as an ordinary investigation, but instead should be
- 4 treated as undiscoverable, privileged material prepared
- 5 solely in anticipation of this litigation. The Internal
- 6 Affairs investigation was not triggered by a direct
- 7 complaint by Plaintiffs to the San Diego Police Department;
- 8 it was begun upon request of the City's Risk Management
- 9 Department after receipt of Plaintiffs' Administrative Claim
- 10 Against the City. Plaintiffs' claim is a mandatory
- 11 prerequisite to a civil lawsuit against the City and was, in
- 12 fact, attached to Plaintiffs' complaint on file with this
- 13 Court. The Internal Affairs investigation was done solely
- 14 in response to Plaintiffs' initiation of this lawsuit.
- 15 Furthermore, during the course of the Internal Affairs
- 16 investigation, Plaintiffs' attorney refused to allow
- 17 Plaintiffs to be interviewed; the result was that only the
- 18 five individually-named Defendant police officers were
- 19 interviewed. Consequently, the only contents of the
- 20 Internal Affairs investigative report are those interviews
- 21 and the documents concerning the search of Plaintiffs'
- 22 apartment, all of which have been previously provided to
- 23 Plaintiffs. Three of the five police officers have already
- 24 been deposed, and the other two will be produced for
- 25 deposition upon request. Given the facts that the Internal
- 26 Affairs investigation was instituted solely in response to
- 27 Plaintiffs' initiation of litigation, that Plaintiffs
- 28 refused to cooperate in the investigation, and that all of

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- 1 the officers are available for deposition, it would be
- 2 unfair to Defendants to now provide Plaintiffs with the
- 3 Internal Affairs investigative report into this incident.
- 4 The litigation privilege clearly should attach to the
- 5 requested report.
- 6 2. <u>Personnel files of the Defendant police officers</u>.
- 7 Plaintiffs also request each individually-named
- 8 officer's personnel history, including previous Internal
- 9 Affairs investigations involving the officer, employee
- 10 performance reports and evaluations, and personnel history
- 11 statements, ostensibly to "show motive, opportunity, intent,
- 12 preparation, plan, knowledge or absence of mistake" in
- 13 committing the alleged constitutional violations claimed in
- 14 this case. Defendants object to Plaintiffs' request for the
- 15 officers' personnel files. Despite their claim otherwise,
- 16 Plaintiffs' request is a typical "fishing expedition" into
- 17 Defendants' personal lives under the guise of a Monell claim
- 18 when, in reality, Plaintiffs are looking for "dirt" on the
- 19 officers, <u>i.e.</u>, irrelevant, inadmissible character evidence.
- 20 Nothing in an officer's personnel file is admissible in a
- 21 case like this, but attorneys continue to request, and
- 22 sometimes receive, this information. Plaintiffs should be
- 23 prevented from prying into the officers' personal lives and
- 24 instead be limited to relevant information regarding this
- 25 incident--the officers' training records, the records of
- 26 this particular incident and any relevant previous
- 27 complaints of incidents similar to this one. Those records
- 28 (except any previous Internal Affairs investigations, to be

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- 1 discussed below) have already been voluntarily produced, or
- 2 will be produced upon request, to Plaintiffs. The other
- 3 irrelevant and inadmissible evidence in the officers'
- 4 personnel files should be restricted. No personal,
- 5 irrelevant information should be disclosed to Plaintiffs,
- 6 especially in a case like this involving undercover police
- 7 officers whose identities must be protected. The officers'
- 8 safety, privacy and confidence in the police department's
- 9 ability to keep their private lives private clearly
- 10 outweighs the Plaintiffs' interest in prying into the
- 11 officers' personal lives in quest of inadmissible character
- 12 evidence about the officers.
- 13 As to previous Internal Affairs investigations
- 14 involving the officers, Defendants understand that previous,
- 15 similar complaints against the officers may be relevant to
- 16 Plaintiffs' Monell claim against the City, and do not object
- 17 to this Court's <u>in</u> <u>camera</u> review of Internal Affairs
- 18 investigations into any such complaints. However,
- 19 Defendants do object to Plaintiffs' blanket request for such
- 20 information. Any information released by this Court must be
- 21 limited to complaints and investigations relevant to the
- 22 issues in dispute in this particular case. The facts in
- 23 this case are as follows: After receiving a citizen's
- 24 complaint about drug sales at Plaintiffs' apartment, Officer
- 25 Brogdon utilized a reliable confidential informant to
- 26 purchase rock cocaine from the apartment. Brogdon then
- 27 swore out an affidavit and obtained from a San Diego
- 28 Municipal Court judge a warrant to search Plaintiffs'

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- 1 apartment. The warrant was served by the five
- 2 individually-named Defendant police officers. The only
- 3 force used in serving the warrant was a show of firearms,
- 4 including an automatic machine gun used by Officer
- 5 Zimmerman. Once Plaintiffs were handcuffed, and the
- 6 apartment secured, no further force was necessary or
- 7 utilized. The search proved fruitless, no arrests were
- 8 made, and the officers left the apartment within one hour of
- 9 arriving. Those facts must form the parameters upon which
- 10 this Court conducts its <u>in</u> <u>camera</u> review of the requested
- 11 files. Previous investigations involving unrelated types of
- 12 incidents or dissimilar conduct should not be released.
- 13 Furthermore, if this Court is inclined after its <u>in</u>
- 14 camera review to release any relevant information to
- 15 Plaintiffs regarding similar prior incidents involving any
- 16 of the officers, Defendants request (1) that only the names
- 17 and addresses of previous complaining parties and witnesses
- 18 be released, and (2) that no records of investigative
- 19 conclusions or discipline imposed on the officers be
- 20 released. A long line of state court cases dealing with
- 21 police personnel records maintained pursuant to state law
- 22 have limited the release of information of prior Internal
- 23 Affairs investigations to the names and addresses of
- 24 possible witnesses only (see, e.g., Pitchess v. Superior
- 25 Court, 11 Cal. 3d 531 (1974); Carruthers v. Municipal Court,
- 26 110 Cal. App. 3d 439 (1980); Kevin L. v. Superior Court, 62
- 27 Cal. App. 3d 823 (1976)). The Internal Affairs files to be
- 28 produced to this Court are maintained pursuant to the state

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- 1 law interpreted in those cases; it is respectfully requested
- 2 that this Court follow that lead and limit discovery in this
- 3 case accordingly.
- 4 As to any conclusions reached or discipline imposed in
- 5 any Internal Affairs investigations, Defendants contend that
- 6 such information is irrelevant and inadmissible in this
- 7 case. The jury during trial of this matter will be asked to
- 8 make its own conclusions as to the propriety of the
- 9 officers' actions. The Court will instruct the jury as to
- 10 the law that must govern its deliberations. To have
- 11 evidence of conclusions reached by other bodies under
- 12 different standards (i.e., administrative police regulations
- 13 and procedures) and discipline imposed pursuant to different
- 14 systems (i.e., Civil Service Commission rules and
- 15 procedures) will confuse the jury as to its role as the
- 16 ultimate decision-maker in this case. The fact that
- 17 discipline was imposed and/or the conclusory bases for such
- 18 discipline is irrelevant, prejudicial, confusing and
- 19 inadmissible.
- 20 //
- 21 //
- 22 //
- 23 //
- 24 //
- 25 //
- 26 //
- 27 //
- 28 //

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1	V. ME	ET AND CONFER S	<u> PATEMENT AS TO DISPUTE NO. 1</u> :
2	De	spite repeated a	attempts by the parties' counsel to
3	informa	lly resolve the	se issues, including the sharing of a
4	privile	ge log, no agre	ement can be reached without the
5	Court's	assistance.	2 0 1
6	Datad.	1-16-98	Barret Tucker
7	Dateu:		Barry J. Tucker, Attorney for Plaintifus
8		. In Icc	
9	Dated:	1/16/98	Francis M. Devaney
LO			Deputy City Attorney
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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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November 12, 1997

Francis M. Devaney Deputy City Attorney Civil Division 1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1200 San Diego, CA 92101-4184

Re: <u>De La Cruz et al. v. City of San Diego, et al.</u> United States District Court Case No. 97 CV 0111J (POR)

Dear Frank:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 1997. In addition to the Internal Affairs investigation of this case, identified as No. 96-329C, we request production of the various items listed in the addendum to this letter. The items pertain to the privilege log you provided on October 15, 1997 of the records of each individually named police officer in the above-entitled matter.

Additionally, we would like to confirm that all information in the privilege log is current. For example, according to the privilege log Officers Brogdon and Zuniga have had no performance reports or reviews in 1997, while Officers Finch, Nicklo and Zimmerman all have had performance reports or reviews this year.

Francis M. Devaney November 12, 1997 Page 2

Please review the enclosed information and let me know how you would like to proceed from here so we can obtain the requested documents as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

Barry J. Tucker

Encl.

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ADDENDUM REGARDING PRIVILEGE LOG OF INDIVIDUALLY NAMED DEFENDANT POLICE OFFICERS IN THE MATTER OF DE LA CRUZ, ET AL. V. CITY OF SAN DIEGO, ET AL. UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CASE NO. 97 CV011J (POR)

NAME

Officer Michael Brogdon, I.D. #3757

San Diego Police Department, Internal Affairs Division

Date of Incident IA#

07/15/94 94-355

San Diego Police Department, Division File

<u>Date</u> <u>Name</u>

12/23/96 Performance Review

San Diego Police Department, Personnel File

<u>Date</u> <u>Name</u>

05/24/86-12/23/96 Employee Performance Reports

City of San Diego Personnel Department

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>		
05/21/86	Employee	Evaluation	
08/21/86	Employee	Evaluation	•
11/21/86	Employee	Evaluation	
11/22/87	Employee	Evaluation	
03/22/88	Employee	Performance	Report
06/22/88	Employee	Performance	Report
09/22/88	Employee	Performance	Report
12/22/88	Employee	Performance	Report
12/22/89	Employee	Performance	Report
12/23/90	Employee	Performance	Report
12/23/91	Employee	Performance	Report
12/23/92	Employee	Performance	Report

12/23/94	Employee	Performance	Report
12/23/95	Employee	Performance	Report
12/23/96	Employee	Performance	Report

NAME

Officer Robert Finch, I.D. #3404

San Diego Police Department, Internal Affairs Division

<u>Date of Incident</u> <u>IA#</u> 04/20/95 95-256

San Diego Police Department, Division File

<u>Date</u> Name

06/19/97 Performance Review

San Diego Police Department, Personnel File

<u>Date</u> <u>Name</u>

04/04/83-06/19/97 Employee Performance Reports

City of San Diego Personnel Department

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>		
04/26/83	Employee	Evaluation	
06/01/83	Employee	Evaluation	
06/29/83	Employee	Evaluation	
07/27/83	Employee	Evaluation	
09/19/83	Employee	Evaluation	
12/19/83	Employee	Evaluation	
12/20/88	Employee	Performance	Report
06/19/91	Employee	Performance	Report
06/19/94	Employee	Performance	Report
06/19/95	Employee	Performance	Report
06/19/96	Employee	Performance	Report
06/19/97	Employee	Performance	Report

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NAME

Officer Robert Nicklo, I.D. #3738

San Diego Police Department, Internal Affairs Division

Date of Incident	IA#
01/27/93	93-044
10/23/93	93-501
06/22/93	93-541
09/07/94	94-480
12/14/94	95-182
06/19/96	96-256

San Diego Police Department, Division File

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
-------------	-------------

10/02/96 Performance Review

San Diego Police Department, Personnel File

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>		
03/30/86-10/02/96	Employee	Performance	Reports
04/04/83-06/19/97	Employee	Performance	Reports

City of San Diego Personnel Department

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	
03/26/86	Employee	Evaluation
06/26/86	Employee	Evaluation
09/26/86	Employee	Evaluation
01/01/88	Employee	Performance Report
07/01/88	Employee	Performance Report
10/01/88	Employee	Performance Report
10/02/89	Employee	Performance Report
10/02/90	Employee	Performance Report
10/02/91	Employee	Performance Report
10/02/92	Employee	Performance Report
10/15/92	Employee	Performance Report

10/02/93	Employee	Performance	Report
10/02/96	Employee	Performance	Report

NAME

Officer Shelley Zimmerman, I.D. #3463

San Diego Police Department, Internal Affairs Division

Date of Incident	IA#
06/19/96	96-256

San Diego Police Department, Division File

<u>Date</u>	Name	
11/21/96	Performance	Review
03/15/97	Performance	Review
06/15/97	Performance	Review

San Diego Police Department, Personnel File

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
04/25/86	San Diego Police Department Personnel History Statement
04/25/86	Memorandum Re Penal Code Section 11166 Child Abuse Reporting Requirement
04/24/87-06/15/97	Employee Performance Reports

City of San Diego Personnel Department

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>		
10/04/88	Employee	Performance	Report
04/24/90	Employee	Performance	Report
04/25/91	Employee	Performance	Report
04/25/92	Employee	Performance	Report
07/29/94	Employee	Performance	Report
12/05/96	Employee	Performance	Report
03/15/97	Employee	Performance	Report
06/15/97	Employee	Performance	Report

NAME Officer Elijah Zuniga, I.D. #4734

San Diego Police Department, Internal Affairs Division

Date of Incident	IA#
12/18/92	92-783
11/06/93	93-533
08/11/94	94-398
08/22/94	94-421
11/04/94	94-549
12/08/94	94-588
07/10/94	95-040
12/21/94	95-054
04/15/95	95-203
07/09/95	95-522
04/29/96	96-201
05/03/96	96-224
06/03/96	96-239
08/27/96	96-344
03/21/97	97-115

San Diego Police Department, Division File

<u>Date</u>	Name		
09/29/96	Performance	Review	
11/29/96	Performance	Development	Plan

San Diego Police Department, Personnel File

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>		
08/15/94	Notice of Reprimand for Preventative Category 1 Police Equipment Accident		
06/06/94	Supervisor's Investigative Report concerning three preventable Category 1 accidents		
09/21/91-09/09/96	Employee Performance Reports		

City of San Diego Personnel Department

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>		
09/21/91	Employee	Performance	Report
12/21/91	Employee	Performance	Report
03/21/92	Employee	Performance	Report
03/22/93	Employee	Performance	Report
09/29/94	Employee	Performance	Report
09/30/95	Employee	Performance	Report
09/29/96	Employee	Performance	Report

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August 25, 1997

Francis M. Devaney
Deputy City Attorney
Office of the City Attorney
Civil Division
1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1200
San Diego, CA 92101-4184

Re: Arevalo De La Cruz v. City of San Diego U.S. District Court Case No. 97-CV-0111J (POR)

Dear Frank:

This letter follows up on Plaintiff's requests for the personnel and internal affairs documents and information concerning the officers involved in the above matter.¹

Although you did not formally produce a privilege log with respect to the assertion of the official information privilege as to the above requests, you ostensibly have identified the requested information as being located in the officers' respective personnel files and in the internal affairs investigation (including the internal affairs division tape-recorded interviews and the report prepared) of the incident. However, you have not detailed what documents are contained in these files so that we may determine what information is relevant to the issues raised in the complaint.

¹ The requests generally concern anything relating to the training, conduct, performance or evaluation of the officers involved in the incident. They also concern any and all records, complaints or other documents concerning the officers involved which relate to their use of excessive force, aggressive conduct, false arrest, improper arrest procedures, improper use of force, improperly obtaining or executing upon a search warrant, use of <u>any</u> improper procedures, or any other complaints by any person or entity about the officers involved.

Francis M. Devaney August 25, 1997 Page 2

In an effort to clarify the issue, Plaintiff is <u>not</u> seeking information or documents concerning the officers' medical histories, emergency contact forms, personal and family data, payroll or pension plans or other salary information, or the identities of unrelated third parties (e.g., the names of individuals arrested by the SDPD).

However, Plaintiff is seeking and is entitled to information related to the allegations of the complaint, and to the extent the personnel and internal affairs files contain information on the issues of credibility, notice to the employer, ratification by the employer, motive of the officers, any other instances of misconduct, and policies of hiring, training, supervision and control of SDPD officers, then the information is discoverable.

Please also provide me with available dates for the deposition of Officer Brogdon to be taken before September 26, 1997 (when the confidential settlement statements are due).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

Barry J. Tucker

Francis M. Devaney August 25, 1997 Page 3

bcc: David M. Logan, Esq.

ì

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ANITA M. NOONE
LESLIE J. GIRARD
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TELEPHONE (619) 533-5800
FAX (619) 533-5847

November 21, 1997

Barry J. Tucker, Esq. Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro LLP 101 W. Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Barry:

De La Cruz, et al. v. City of San Diego, et al. United States District Court Case No. 97CV0111J (POR)

As I explained in my November 19, 1997, voice-mail message to you, I am constrained and prohibited by statute and by the policies of this office and the San Diego Police Department from voluntarily providing you with copies of the documents requested in your November 12, 1997, letter in the above-entitled matter. Please, therefore, prepare a Joint Statement of Disputed Discovery Issues listing the requested documents and plaintiffs' factual and legal bases in support of production of those documents; leave a blank for defendants' response in opposition to production and I will insert our arguments. We can then submit the statement and request an in-camera review of the documents.

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

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Deputy City Attorney

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